(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether, after the increase of lending rates on term deposits with banks, the rate of inflation has been affected; and

(d) if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) As a part of the credit policy for the first half of 1995-96 announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the maximum term deposit rate has been raised by one percentage point. The existing and the revised term deposits rates (excluding non-resident deposits) are given below:

(Per cent per annum)

Duration	Existing Rates	New Rates (Effective April 18, 1995)
46 days to 3 years and above	'Not exceeding' 11.00	'Not exceeding' 12.00

Most banks have as a result, raised interest rates on term deposits of various maturity. As a consequence of the higher cost of resources most banks have also raised their prime-lending rate by 0.5 per cent (from 15.0 per cent to 15.5 per cent) excluding interest tax.

As per latest available data, inflation rate, as measured by the index numbers of whole sale prices on year point at point basis was 8.74 per cent, as on 22nd April, 1995. It is too early to assess the impact of increase in maximum deposit rate on rate of inflation.

Concessions for blind persons

*500. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind persons get some concessions for travelling by air;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand by the associations of the handicapped persons in the country to extend this concession; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to high cost of operations, such concessions to physically and mentally handicapped persons is not possible.

Vacancies of aircraft technicians in Air India at Madras station

5195. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many vacancies exist at Madras station of Air India for posting of aircraft technicians;

(b) the details in this regard in respect of avionics and air frame/engine streams, separately;

(c) how many technicians have been posted against these vacancies in the past

three years with duration of each technician posted against such vacancies;

(d) whether any individual has been considered for more than one occasion; if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the criteria laid down by Air India for such posting and whether Sectional Head's recommendations is required for such posting; and

(f) what are the benefits/entitlement for above mentioned employees?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) There is one vacancy in the post of technician in the Airframe Engine Stream. In Avionics stream there is no vacancy.

(c) 8 Technicians were posted during the last 3 years on temporary/permanent posting; the period of posting varied from 26 days to 60 days for temporary posting.

(d) Yes, Sir. One technician was considered for posting on more than one occassion on compassionate grounds.

(e) Aircraft technicians with minimum 4 years experience in relevant stream and having suitability/merit as reflected in their personal appraisal forms for last three years are selected depending upon the standard force requirements. Applications received through proper channel only are considered and compelling domestic or other circumstances for seeking orders are also taken into account.

(f) Technicians posted on temporary posting are entitled to hotel accomodation and applicable daily allowance. On permanent posting, they are entitled to halting allowance (equavelent to daily allowance) for the first 90 days and ten times daily allowance per month for a period beyond 90 days but upto one year. Beyond one year, they are not entitled to the above allowance.

Functions of Aircraft Maintenance Engineer

5196. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the functions of an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer holding A&C lincence/approval;

(b) whether the Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Air India are carrying out avionic stream flight snag rectification at outstations in the name of minor rectification and basic inspection; and

(c) if so, whether the DGCA is aware of such violations and what action Government are proposing to curb violations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The main functions of Aircraft Maintenance Engineers (AMEs) holding A and C licence are as under:—

(i) To issue certificate of flight release (after major checks) and certificate of safety of flight (after minor checks).

(ii) To carry out snag rectification on aircraft and engine system.

(iii) Limited snag rectification on Radio/Navigation/Communication system at outstations.

(iv) To inspect and certify public transport aircraft airworthy for continuance of flight under original certificate of flight release.

(b) Yes, Sir. Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Air India holding licence in 'A' and 'C' categories carry out limited flight snag rectification on all aircraft systems at outstantions including Radio/Navigation/Communications systems.

(c) The certification is done as per accepted norms and no violation is involved.